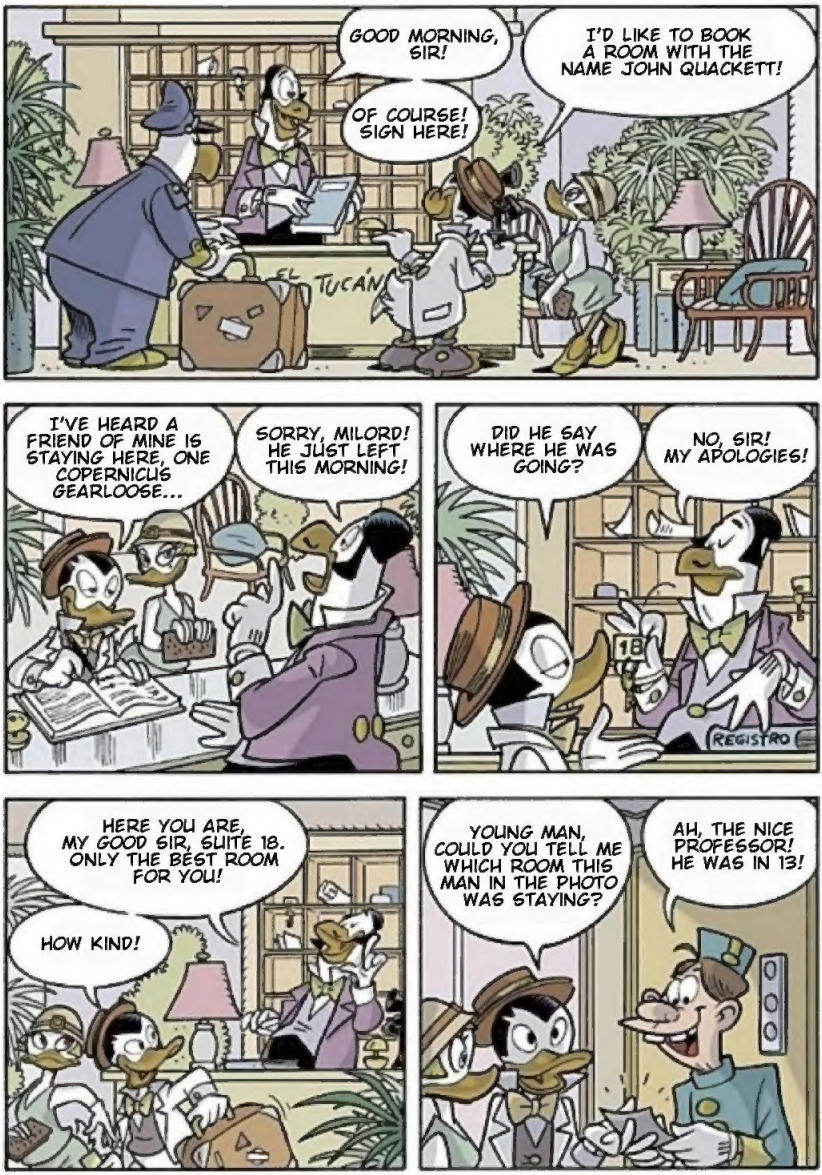
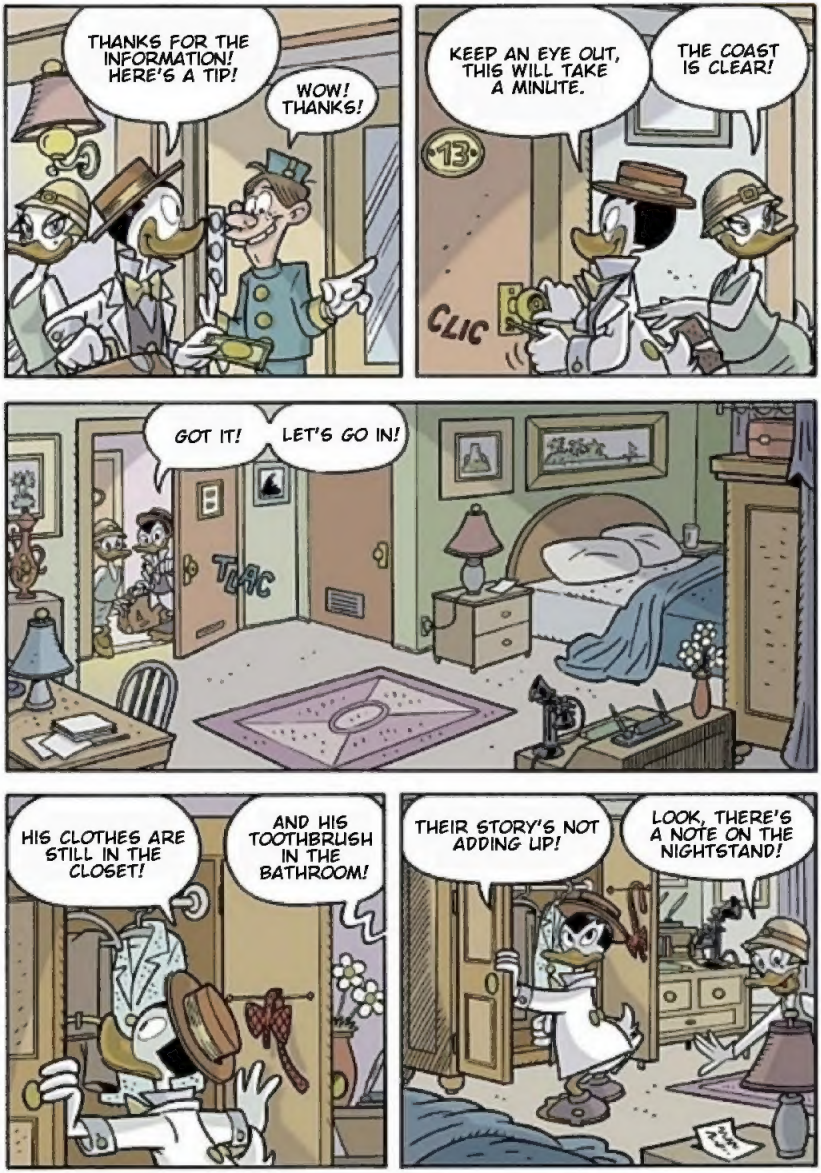
LE STRABILIANTI IMPRESE DI
FANTOMIUS
-LADRO GENTILUOMO-
COSTA RICCA, 1925! PUERTO LIMÓN
THIS IS THE HOTEL WHERE COPERNICUS WAS STAYING!
I'M WORRIED! IT'S NOT LIKE HIM TO DISAPPEAR LIKE THAT!
HOTEL EL TUCÁN
BEHIND THE IDENTITY OF LORD QUACKETT, INEPT AND CLUMSY NOBLEDUCK, LIES THAT OF FANTOMIUS, A GENTLEMAN THIEF, WHOSE DIARY IS THE INSPIRATION FOR PAPERINIK.
IP-3318-1
ON THE PHONE HE ONLY SAID "YOU HAVE TO COME QUICKLY", THEN THE CALL WAS CUT OFF!
* VEDI TOPOLINO N. 3280
HOPEFULLY THE RECEPTIONIST CAN TELL US SOMETHING!
LET'S NOT SEEM TOO PUSHY, NOW.
EL TUCÁN

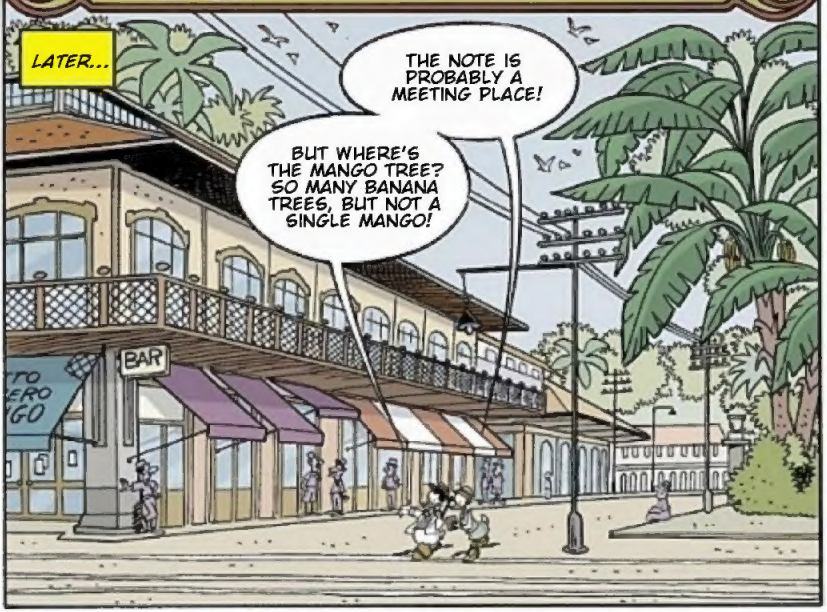
Soggetto, sceneggiatura e disegni di **Marco Gervasio**

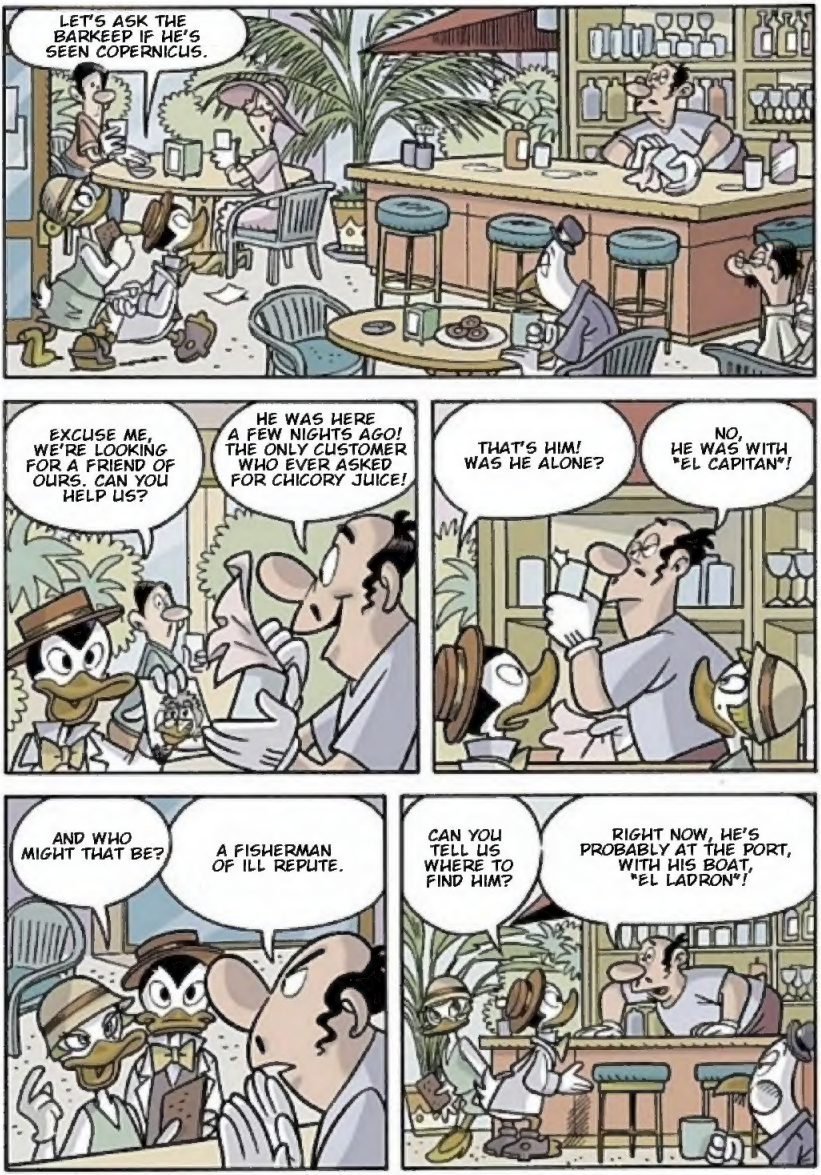

GOOD MORNING, SIR!
I'D LIKE TO BOOK A ROOM WITH THE NAME JOHN QUACKETT!
OF COURSE! SIGN HERE!
EL TUCÁN
I'VE HEARD A FRIEND OF MINE IS STAYING HERE, ONE COPERNICUS GEARLOOSE...
SORRY, MILORD! HE JUST LEFT THIS MORNING!
DID HE SAY WHERE HE WAS GOING?
NO, SIR! MY APOLOGIES!
18
REGISTRO
HERE YOU ARE, MY GOOD SIR, SUITE 18. ONLY THE BEST ROOM FOR YOU!
HOW KIND!
YOUNG MAN, COULD YOU TELL ME WHICH ROOM THIS MAN IN THE PHOTO WAS STAYING?
AH, THE NICE PROFESSOR! HE WAS IN 13!

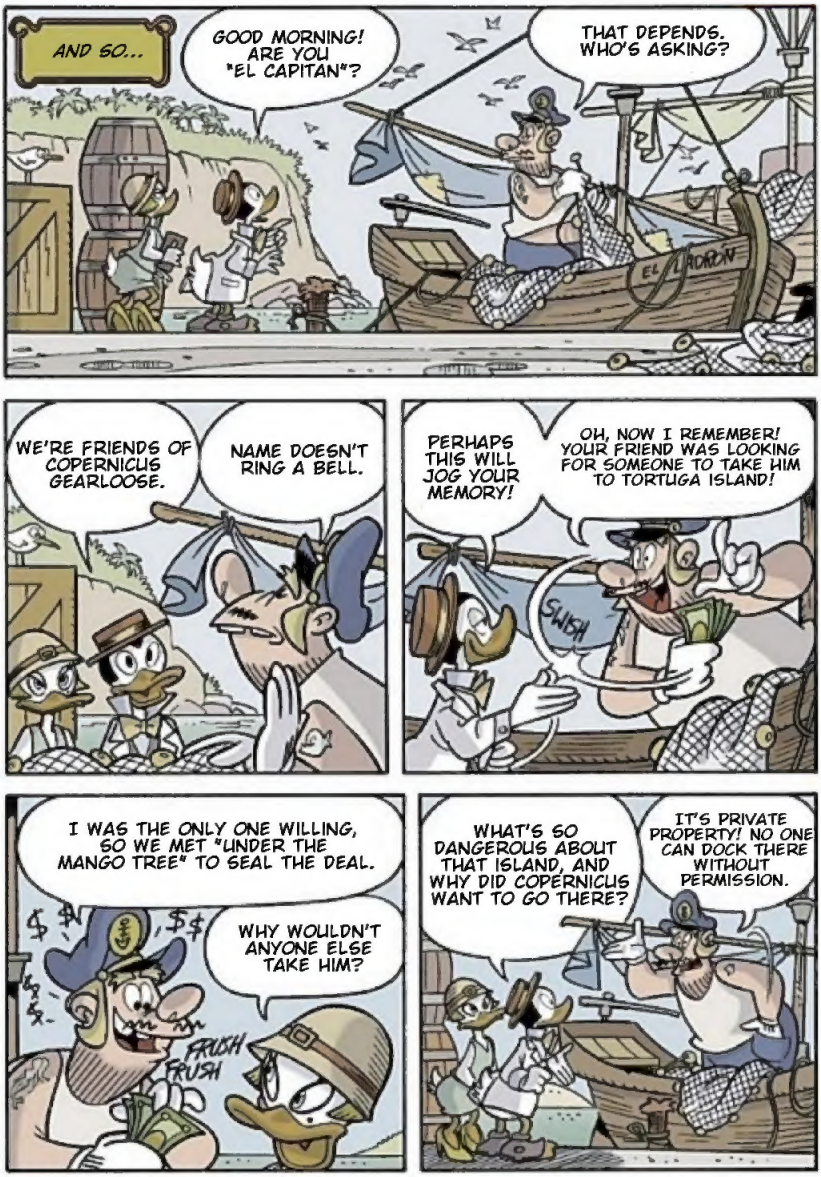

THANKS FOR THE INFORMATION! HERE'S A TIP!
WOW! THANKS!
KEEP AN EYE OUT, THIS WILL TAKE A MINUTE.
THE COAST IS CLEAR!
13
CLIC
GOT IT!
LET'S GO IN!
TLAC
HIS CLOTHES ARE STILL IN THE CLOSET!
AND HIS TOOTHBRUSH IN THE BATHROOM!
THEIR STORY'S NOT ADDING UP!
LOOK, THERE'S A NOTE ON THE NIGHTSTAND!

"UNDER THE MANGO TREE"!
THAT'S COPERNICUS' HANDWRITING! BUT WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
Under the mango tree
SIR, WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN HERE?
OH, THIS ISN'T OUR SUITE? I MUST HAVE TAKEN A WRONG TURN.
I TOLD YOU IT SEEMED TOO SMALL!
HOW DID YOU GET IN, PRAY TELL?
THE DOOR WAS OPEN! YOU SHOULD PAY MORE ATTENTION!
HMPH! FOLLOW ME, PLEASE! I'LL SHOW YOU TO YOUR ROOM.
THANK YOU! HOPEFULLY THAT DOOR'S CLOSED.
13
SOON AFTER...
AS YOU SUSPECTED, LORD QUACKETT IS HERE!
EL TUCÁN
UNFORTUNATELY, I HADN'T CLEARED THE ROOM, BUT THEY FOUND NO CLUES!

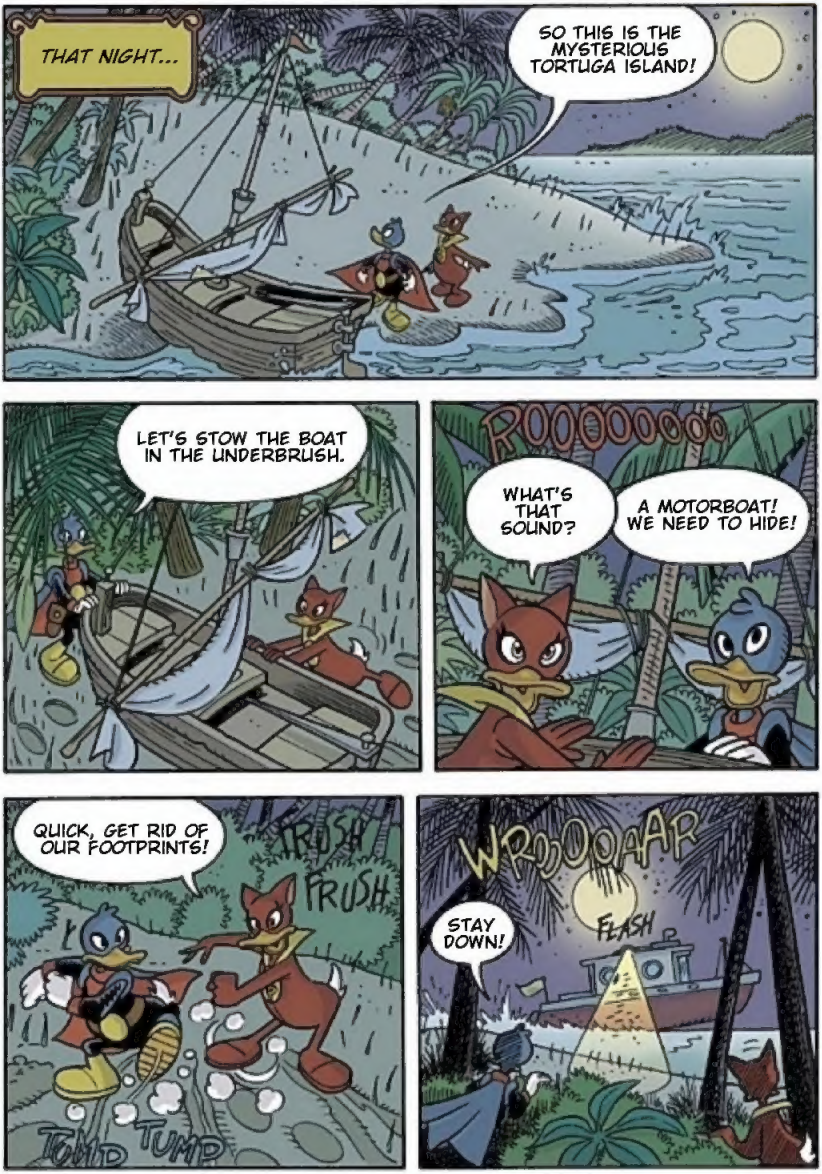
On the Trail of Copernicus



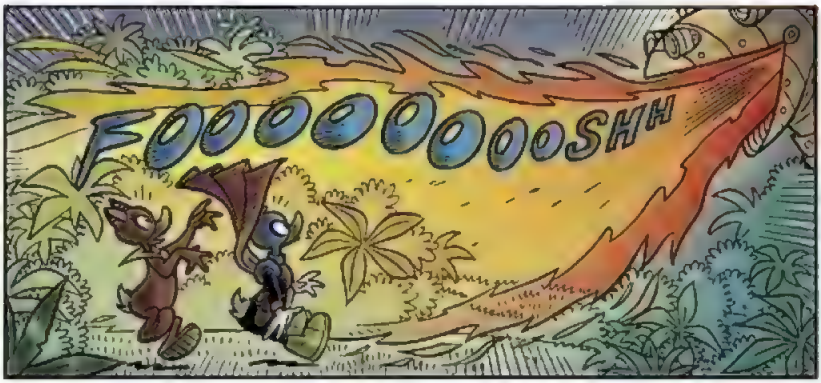

LET'S ASK THE BARKEEP IF HE'S SEEN COPERNICUS.
EXCUSE ME, WE'RE LOOKING FOR A FRIEND OF OURS. CAN YOU HELP US?
HE WAS HERE A FEW NIGHTS AGO! THE ONLY CUSTOMER WHO EVER ASKED FOR CHICORY JUICE!
THAT'S HIM! WAS HE ALONE?
NO, HE WAS WITH "EL CAPITAN"!
AND WHO MIGHT THAT BE?
A FISHERMAN OF ILL REPUTE.
CAN YOU TELL US WHERE TO FIND HIM?
RIGHT NOW, HE'S PROBABLY AT THE PORT, WITH HIS BOAT, "EL LADRON"!


AND SO...
GOOD MORNING! ARE YOU "EL CAPITAN"?
THAT DEPENDS. WHO'S ASKING?
EL ALACRAN
WE'RE FRIENDS OF COPERNICUS GEARLOOSE.
NAME DOESN'T RING A BELL.
PERHAPS THIS WILL JOG YOUR MEMORY!
OH, NOW I REMEMBER! YOUR FRIEND WAS LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO TAKE HIM TO TORTUGA ISLAND!
SWISH
I WAS THE ONLY ONE WILLING, SO WE MET "UNDER THE MANGO TREE" TO SEAL THE DEAL.
WHY WOULDN'T ANYONE ELSE TAKE HIM?
FRUSH FRUSH
WHAT'S SO DANGEROUS ABOUT THAT ISLAND, AND WHY DID COPERNICUS WANT TO GO THERE?
IT'S PRIVATE PROPERTY! NO ONE CAN DOCK THERE WITHOUT PERMISSION.

THERE'S PATROL BOATS CIRCLING THE BEACHES, AND IF THAT WASN'T ENOUGH...
...THE ISLAND IS INHABITED BY A HUGE, FIRE-SPEWING DRAGON!
BAH! DRAGONS DON'T EXIST!
WRONG! I SAW IT WITH MY OWN TWO EYES WHILE LOOKING FOR SHELLS!
THE OTHERS WON'T RISK IT, BUT THERE ARE RARE AND VALUABLE ONES THERE!
AND YOU DON'T FEAR THE PATROL BOATS?
MY BOAT'S SO SMALL THEY DON'T NOTICE IT!
AND WHAT ABOUT COPERNICUS?
HE OFFERED ME GOOD MONEY, SO A FEW NIGHTS AGO I TOOK HIM TO THE ISLAND!
SO HOW MUCH WILL IT BE FOR US TO RENT YOUR BOAT?

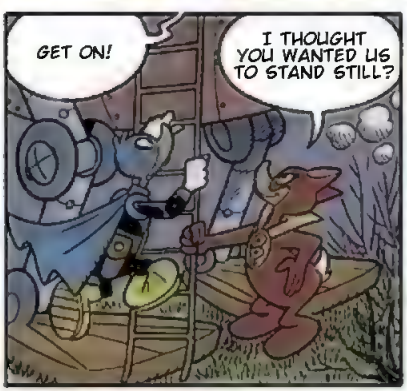

THAT NIGHT...
SO THIS IS THE MYSTERIOUS TORTUGA ISLAND!
LET'S STOW THE BOAT IN THE UNDERBRUSH.
ROOOOOOO
WHAT'S THAT SOUND?
A MOTORBOAT! WE NEED TO HIDE!
QUICK, GET RID OF OUR FOOTPRINTS!
FRUSH FRUSH
TOMD TUMD
WROOOAAR
STAY DOWN!
FLASH

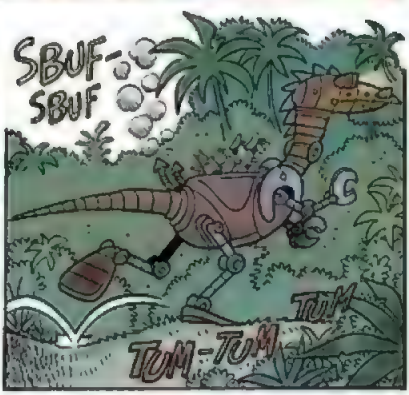
THEY DIDN'T SPOT US.
LET'S CONTINUE INLAND.
WROOOO
A SHORT WALK LATER...
TUMP-TUMP
SBUF
SBUF
DO YOU HEAR THAT?
SOMETHING'S GETTING CLOSER!
BEHIND THE BUSHES, QUICKLY!
SBUF
SBUF
A MECHANICAL STEAM-POWERED DRAGON!
IT LOOKS LIKE COPERNICUS' WORK! AT LEAST IT'S NOT SPITTING FI...
TUMP


FOOOOOOOOSHH

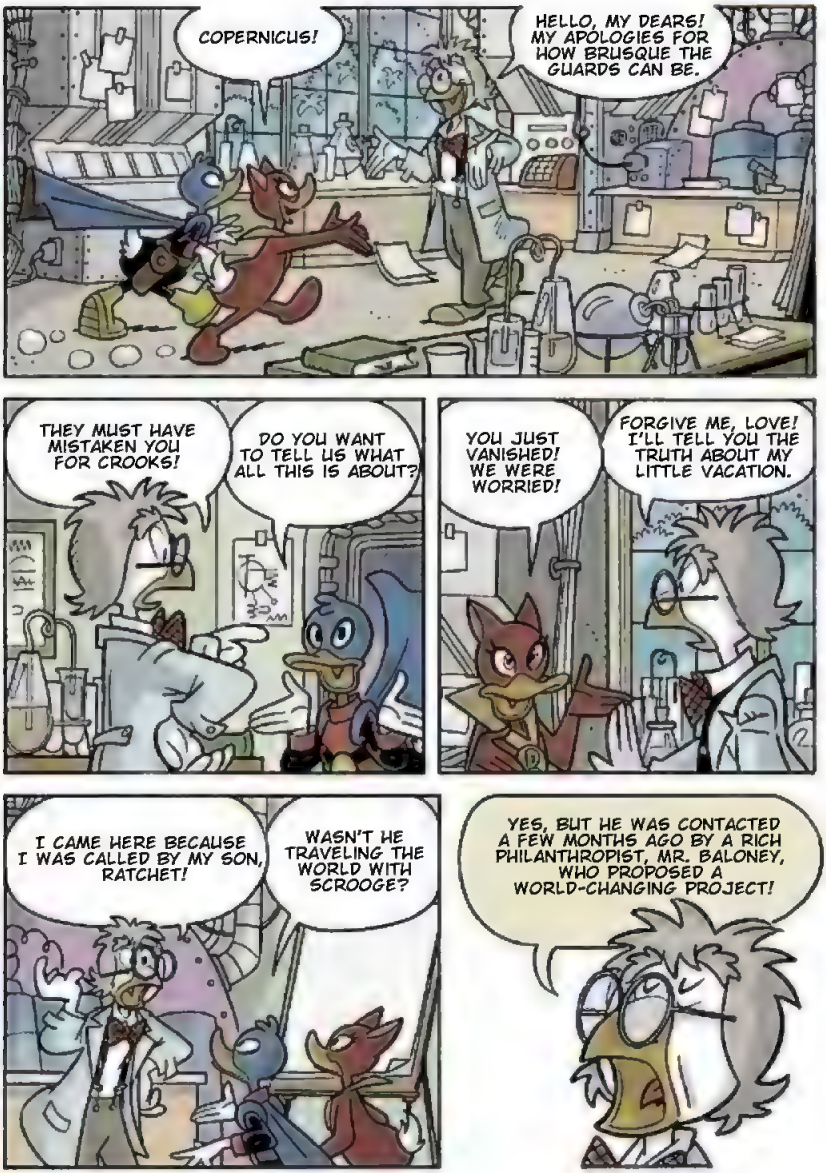
SEEMS I SPOKE TOO SOON!
YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN!
FSSS
FSSS

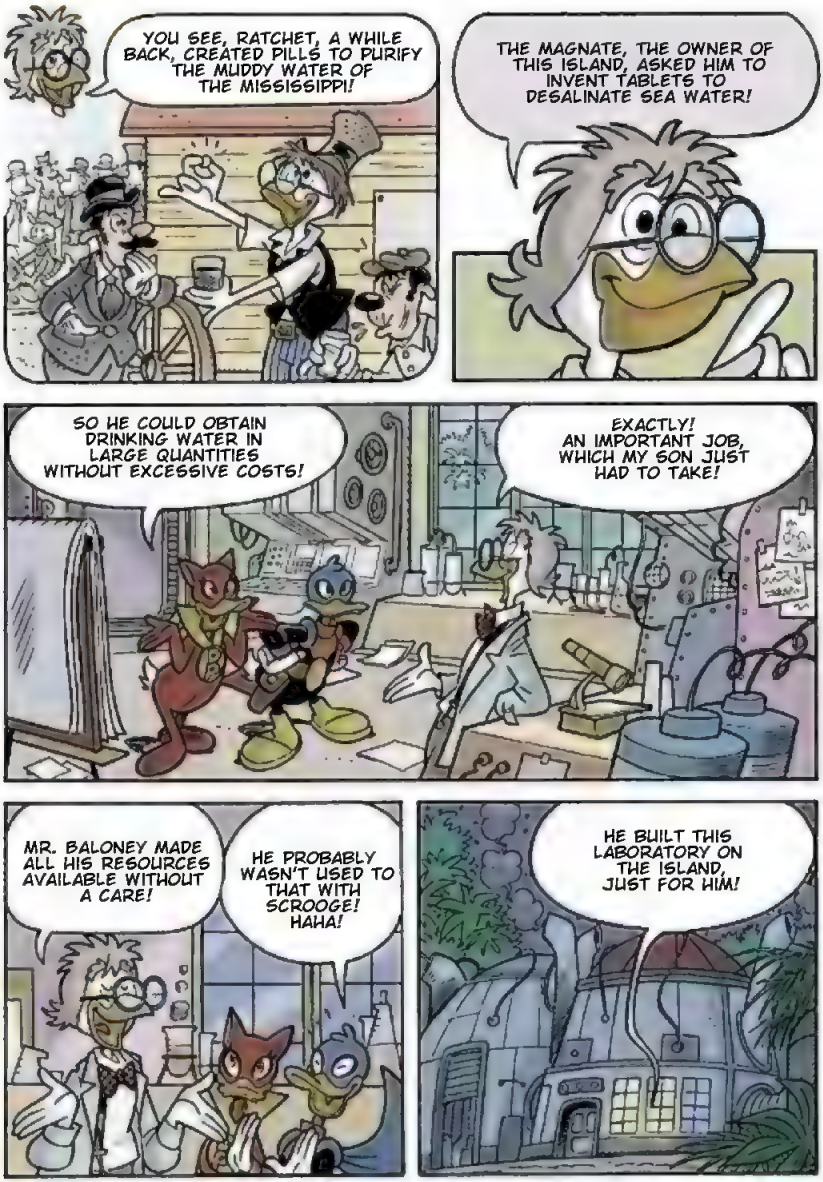
STOP RIGHT THERE, OR NEXT TIME THE BLAST WON'T MISS!
WE'LL COME QUIETLY! I'M NOT REALLY ONE FOR THE... FIERY TYPES.

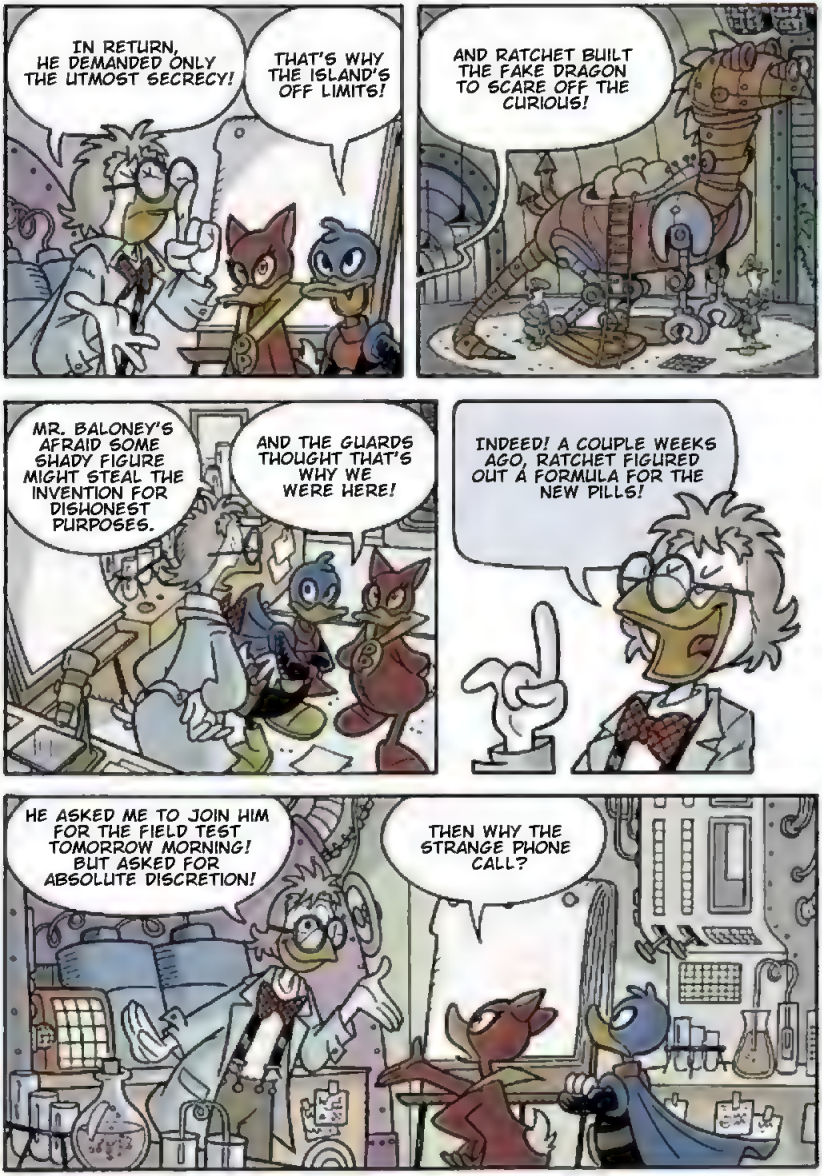

GET ON!
I THOUGHT YOU WANTED US TO STAND STILL?


SBUF-SBUF
TUM
TUM-TUM

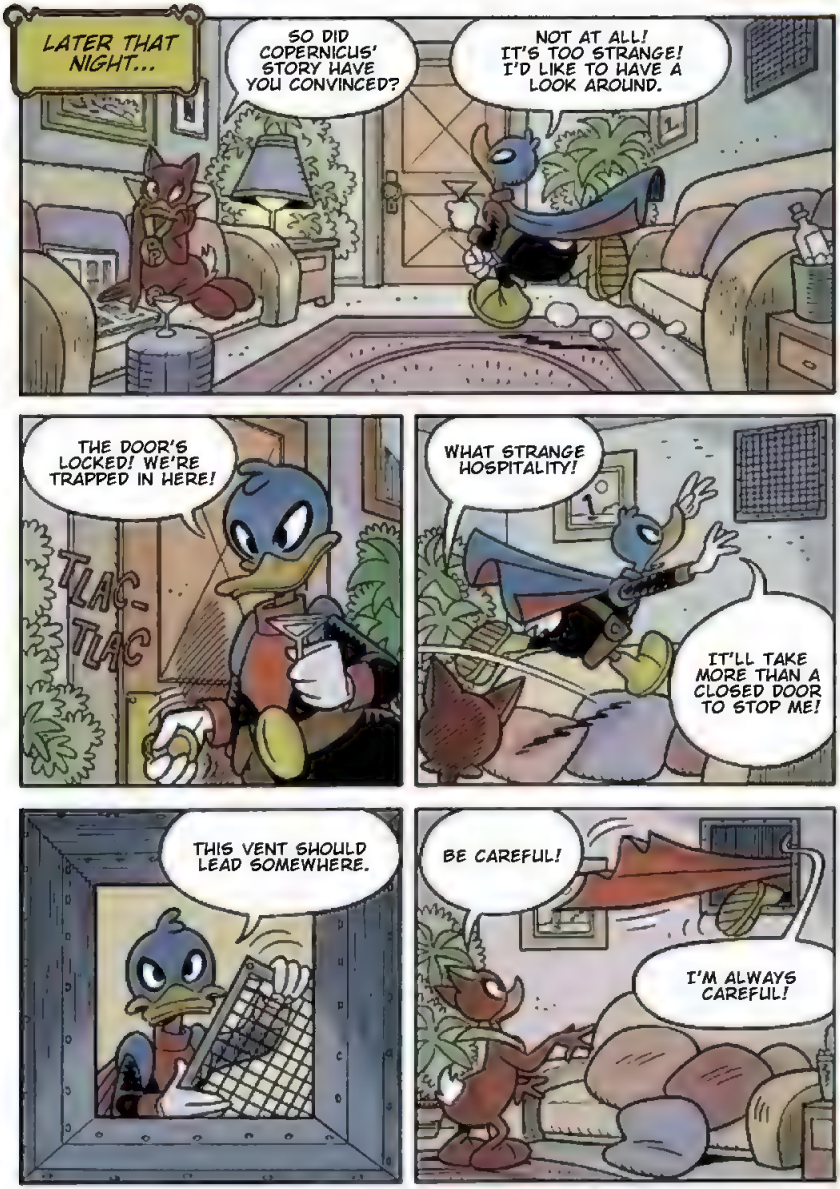
SOON AFTER...
HERE WE ARE!
ARE WE GOING TO A PARTY?
TUMP
TUMP
GET OFF!
AH, I GET IT! IT'S A SURPRISE!
I'VE NEVER LIKED SURPRISES.
NEITHER HAVE I!
GET IN!
A LABORATORY!
IS THAT?!

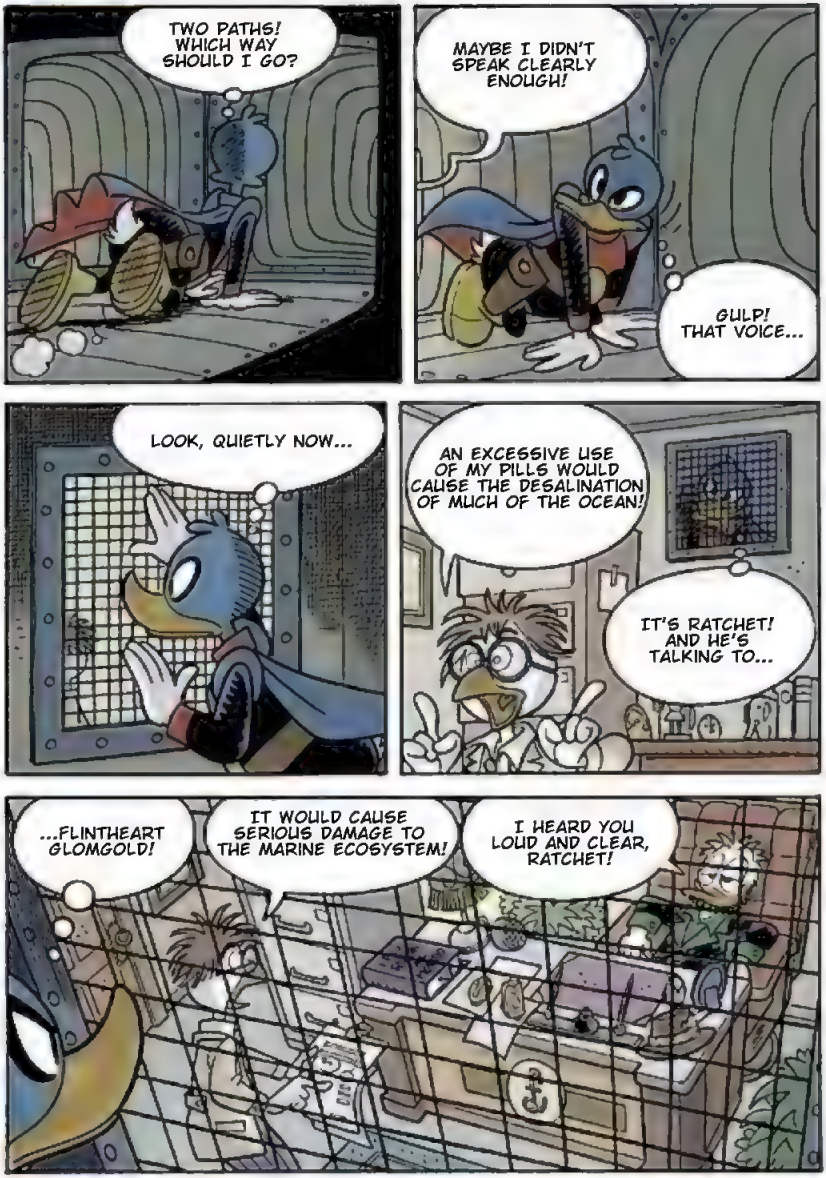

COPERNICUS!
HELLO, MY DEARS! MY APOLOGIES FOR HOW BRUSQUE THE GUARDS CAN BE.
THEY MUST HAVE MISTAKEN YOU FOR CROOKS!
DO YOU WANT TO TELL US WHAT ALL THIS IS ABOUT?
YOU JUST VANISHED! WE WERE WORRIED!
FORGIVE ME, LOVE! I'LL TELL YOU THE TRUTH ABOUT MY LITTLE VACATION.
I CAME HERE BECAUSE I WAS CALLED BY MY SON, RATCHET!
WASN'T HE TRAVELING THE WORLD WITH SCROOGE?
YES, BUT HE WAS CONTACTED A FEW MONTHS AGO BY A RICH PHILANTHROPIST, MR. BALONEY, WHO PROPOSED A WORLD-CHANGING PROJECT!


YOU SEE, RATCHET, A WHILE BACK, CREATED PILLS TO PURIFY THE MUDDY WATER OF THE MISSISSIPPI!
THE MAGNATE, THE OWNER OF THIS ISLAND, ASKED HIM TO INVENT TABLETS TO DESALINATE SEA WATER!
SO HE COULD OBTAIN DRINKING WATER IN LARGE QUANTITIES WITHOUT EXCESSIVE COSTS!
EXACTLY! AN IMPORTANT JOB, WHICH MY SON JUST HAD TO TAKE!
MR. BALONEY MADE ALL HIS RESOURCES AVAILABLE WITHOUT A CARE!
HE PROBABLY WASN'T USED TO THAT WITH SCROOGE! HAHA!
HE BUILT THIS LABORATORY ON THE ISLAND, JUST FOR HIM!

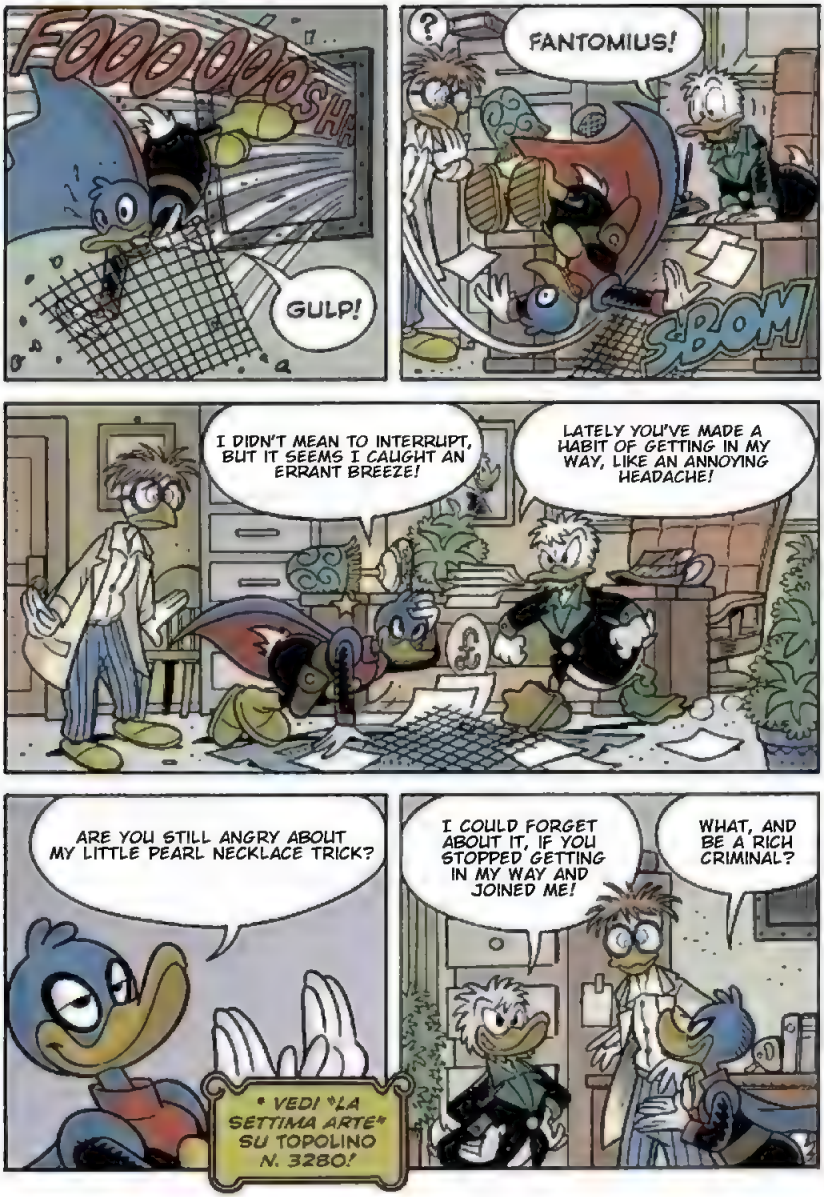

IN RETURN, HE DEMANDED ONLY THE UTMOST SECRECY!
THAT'S WHY THE ISLAND'S OFF LIMITS!
AND RATCHET BUILT THE FAKE DRAGON TO SCARE OFF THE CURIOUS!
MR. BALONEY'S AFRAID SOME SHADY FIGURE MIGHT STEAL THE INVENTION FOR DISHONEST PURPOSES.
AND THE GUARDS THOUGHT THAT'S WHY WE WERE HERE!
INDEED! A COUPLE WEEKS AGO, RATCHET FIGURED OUT A FORMULA FOR THE NEW PILLS!
HE ASKED ME TO JOIN HIM FOR THE FIELD TEST TOMORROW MORNING! BUT ASKED FOR ABSOLUTE DISCRETION!
THEN WHY THE STRANGE PHONE CALL?

UM... I COULDN'T RESIST. I WAS OVERCOME WITH PATERNAL PRIDE, AND SO I INVITED YOU WITHOUT PERMISSION!
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN NICE IF YOU TOLD US THEN, INSTEAD OF WORRYING US!
I'M SORRY, MY DEARS! I WAS SO EXCITED THAT I DIDN'T CONSIDER IT!
YOU KNOW HOW CARELESS I CAN BE! I EVEN FORGOT ALL MY THINGS AT THE HOTEL!
TAP-TAP
BUT NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE, WHY DON'T YOU STAY THE NIGHT? YOU CAN LEAVE IN THE MORNING!
I'LL GET YOU SOME NORMAL CLOTHES!
OF COURSE, COPERNICUS! SO WE CAN MEET YOUR SON!
AND OF COURSE, THIS MR. BALONEY!
HE'S IN DUCKBURG ON IMPORTANT BUSINESS, BUT HE'LL BE BACK BY MORNING!

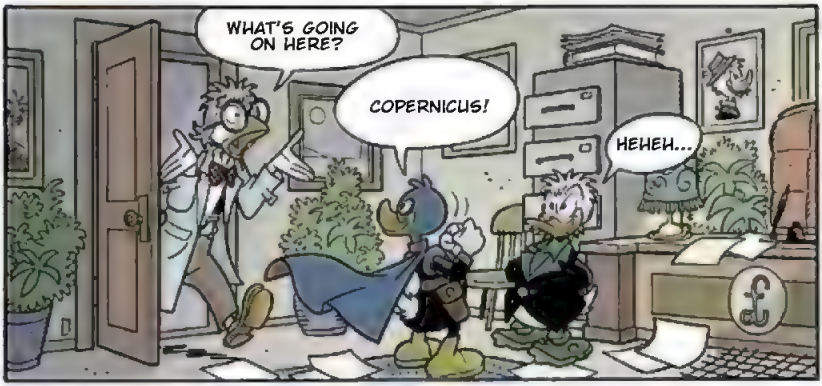

LATER THAT NIGHT...
SO DID COPERNICUS' STORY HAVE YOU CONVINCED?
NOT AT ALL! IT'S TOO STRANGE! I'D LIKE TO HAVE A LOOK AROUND.
THE DOOR'S LOCKED! WE'RE TRAPPED IN HERE!
TLAC-TLAC
WHAT STRANGE HOSPITALITY!
IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN A CLOSED DOOR TO STOP ME!
THIS VENT SHOULD LEAD SOMEWHERE.
BE CAREFUL!
I'M ALWAYS CAREFUL!


TWO PATHS! WHICH WAY SHOULD I GO?
MAYBE I DIDN'T SPEAK CLEARLY ENOUGH!
GULP! THAT VOICE...
LOOK, QUIETLY NOW...
AN EXCESSIVE USE OF MY PILLS WOULD CAUSE THE DESALINATION OF MUCH OF THE OCEAN!
IT'S RATCHET! AND HE'S TALKING TO...
...FLINTHEART GLOMGOLD!
IT WOULD CAUSE SERIOUS DAMAGE TO THE MARINE ECOSYSTEM!
I HEARD YOU LOUD AND CLEAR, RATCHET!

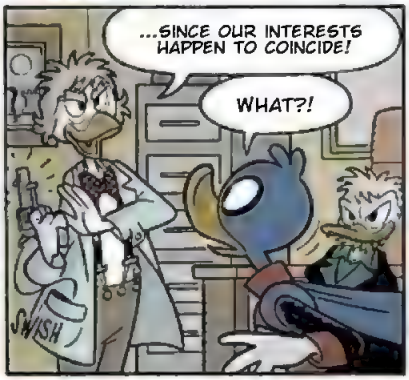
THAT MEANS HE'S MR. BALONEY!
THAT'S THE REASON FOR ALL THE SECRECY! THE AUTHORITIES WOULDN'T ALLOW IT NORMALLY.
BUT... DRINKING WATER... THE GOOD OF HUMANITY...
AH, AH! THE ONLY GOOD THAT INTERESTS ME IS MINE!
YOU LIED TO ME!
PHT
YOU'RE AS NAIVE AS YOU ARE BRILLIANT. I'LL USE YOUR PILLS TO GET CHEAP WATER...
...WHICH I'LL SELL AT A HIGH PRICE! THAT'LL LEAVE THEM VERY SALTY!
SO MUCH FOR THE ECOSYSTEM! TCH!
£

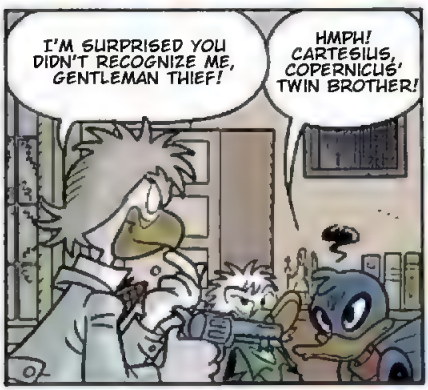

FOOOOOOSH
GULP!
?
FANTOMIUS!
SBOOM
I DIDN'T MEAN TO INTERRUPT, BUT IT SEEMS I CAUGHT AN ERRANT BREEZE!
LATELY YOU'VE MADE A HABIT OF GETTING IN MY WAY, LIKE AN ANNOYING HEADACHE!
ARE YOU STILL ANGRY ABOUT MY LITTLE PEARL NECKLACE TRICK?
* VEDI "LA SETTIMA ARTE" SU TOPOLINO N. 3280!
I COULD FORGET ABOUT IT, IF YOU STOPPED GETTING IN MY WAY AND JOINED ME!
WHAT, AND BE A RICH CRIMINAL?

AREN'T YOU ALREADY?
I AM A THIEF, THAT IS TRUE!
BUT I ONLY STEAL FROM THOSE WHO DESERVE IT, AND GIVE MY SPOILS TO THE NEEDY!
YOU DON'T SAY! AREN'T YOU JUST A REGULAR ROBIN HOOD?
AND I CERTAINLY WOULD NEVER PUT THE ECOSYSTEM AT RISK!
WELL SAID!
MAY I? I'M RATCHET GEARLOOSE!
NICE TO MEET YOU, BUT LET'S POSTPONE THE INTRODUCTIONS!
THIS SOUNDS STRANGE COMING FROM ME, BUT... RUN AND CALL THE POLICE!
ON IT!
YOU'LL REGRET NOT ACCEPTING MY OFFER!
I DOUBT THAT!

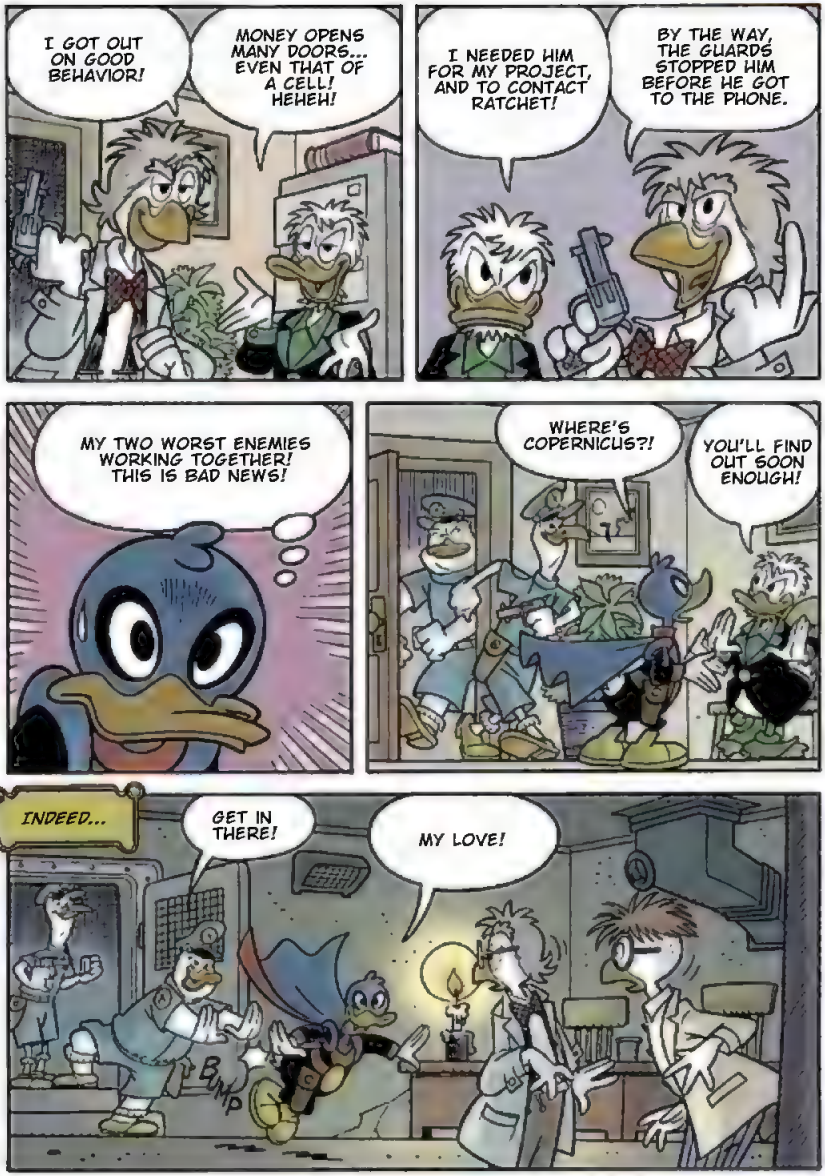

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
COPERNICUS!
HEHEH...

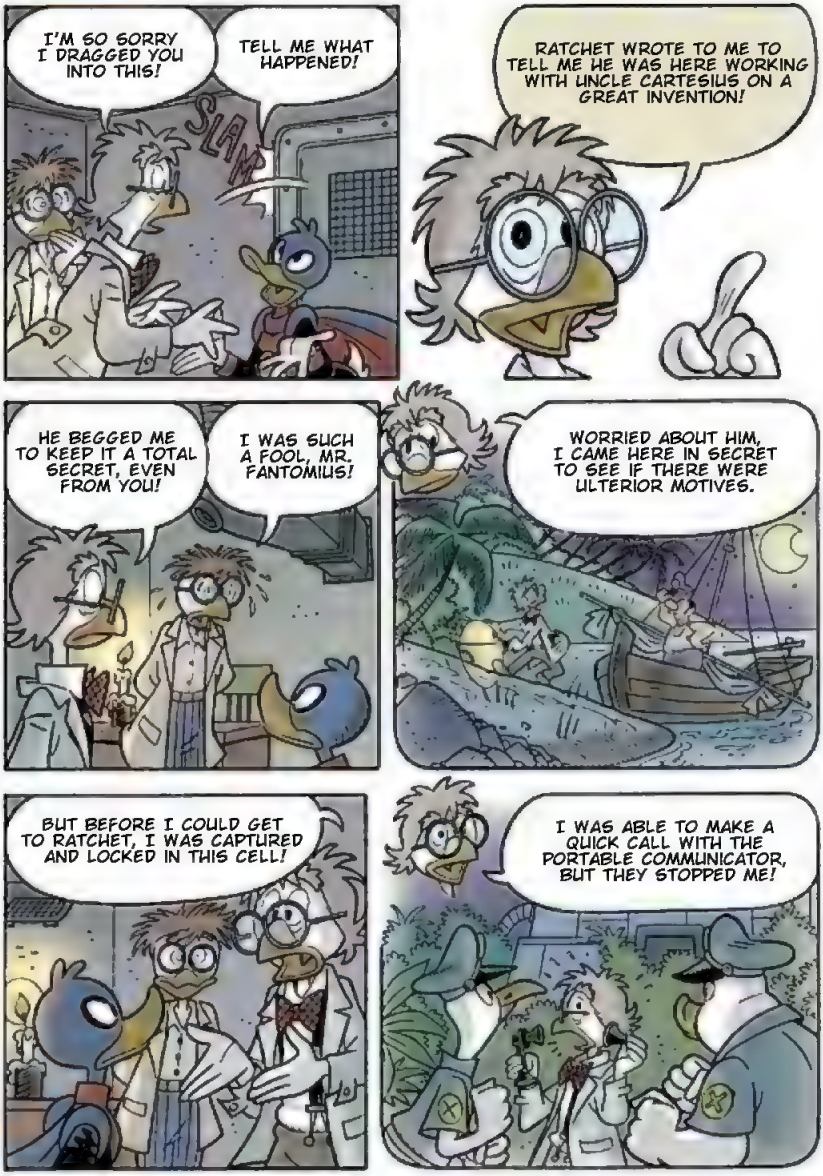
THAT PHILANTHROPIST IS FLINTHEART, AND HIS INTENTIONS ARE FAR FROM HUMANITARIAN!
OH, I KNOW...

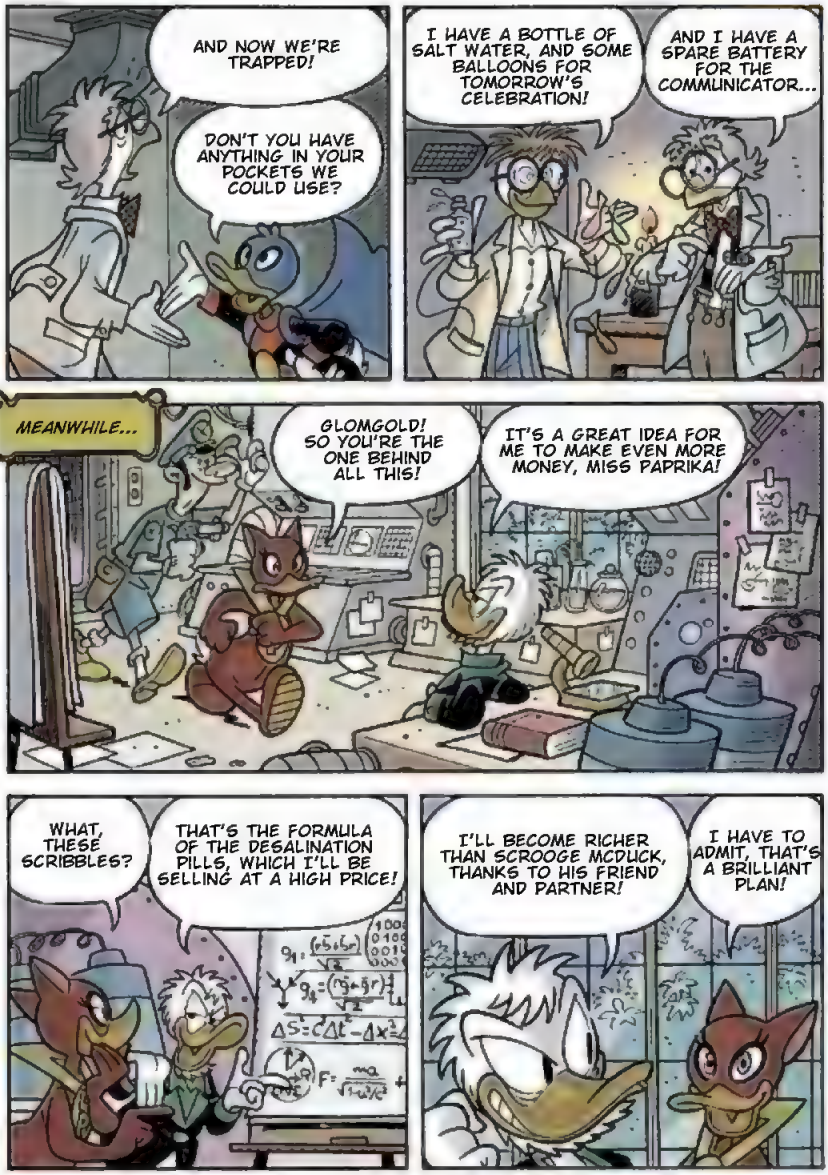

...SINCE OUR INTERESTS HAPPEN TO COINCIDE!
WHAT?!
SWISH


I'M SURPRISED YOU DIDN'T RECOGNIZE ME, GENTLEMAN THIEF!
HMPH! CARTESIUS, COPERNICUS' TWIN BROTHER!

ALL IT TOOK WAS A PAIR OF GLASSES AND A SLIGHT CHANGE OF VOICE TO FOOL YOU!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE STILL IN PRISON!

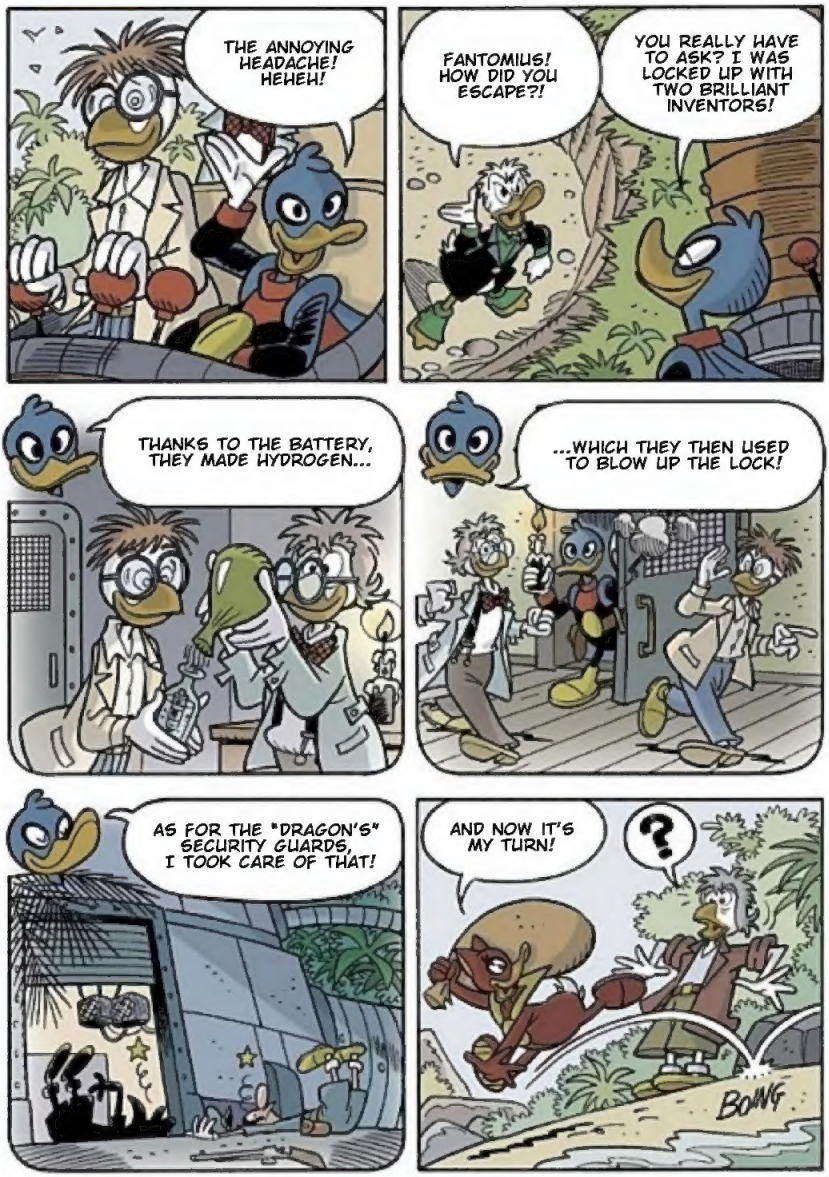

I GOT OUT ON GOOD BEHAVIOR!
MONEY OPENS MANY DOORS... EVEN THAT OF A CELL! HEHEH!
I NEEDED HIM FOR MY PROJECT, AND TO CONTACT RATCHET!
BY THE WAY, THE GUARDS STOPPED HIM BEFORE HE GOT TO THE PHONE.
MY TWO WORST ENEMIES WORKING TOGETHER! THIS IS BAD NEWS!
WHERE'S COPERNICUS?!
YOU'LL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH!
INDEED...
GET IN THERE!
MY LOVE!
BMP


I'M SO SORRY I DRAGGED YOU INTO THIS!
TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED!
SLAM
RATCHET WROTE TO ME TO TELL ME HE WAS HERE WORKING WITH UNCLE CARTESIUS ON A GREAT INVENTION!
HE BEGGED ME TO KEEP IT A TOTAL SECRET, EVEN FROM YOU!
I WAS SUCH A FOOL, MR. FANTOMIUS!
WORRIED ABOUT HIM, I CAME HERE IN SECRET TO SEE IF THERE WERE ULTERIOR MOTIVES.
BUT BEFORE I COULD GET TO RATCHET, I WAS CAPTURED AND LOCKED IN THIS CELL!
I WAS ABLE TO MAKE A QUICK CALL WITH THE PORTABLE COMMUNICATOR, BUT THEY STOPPED ME!

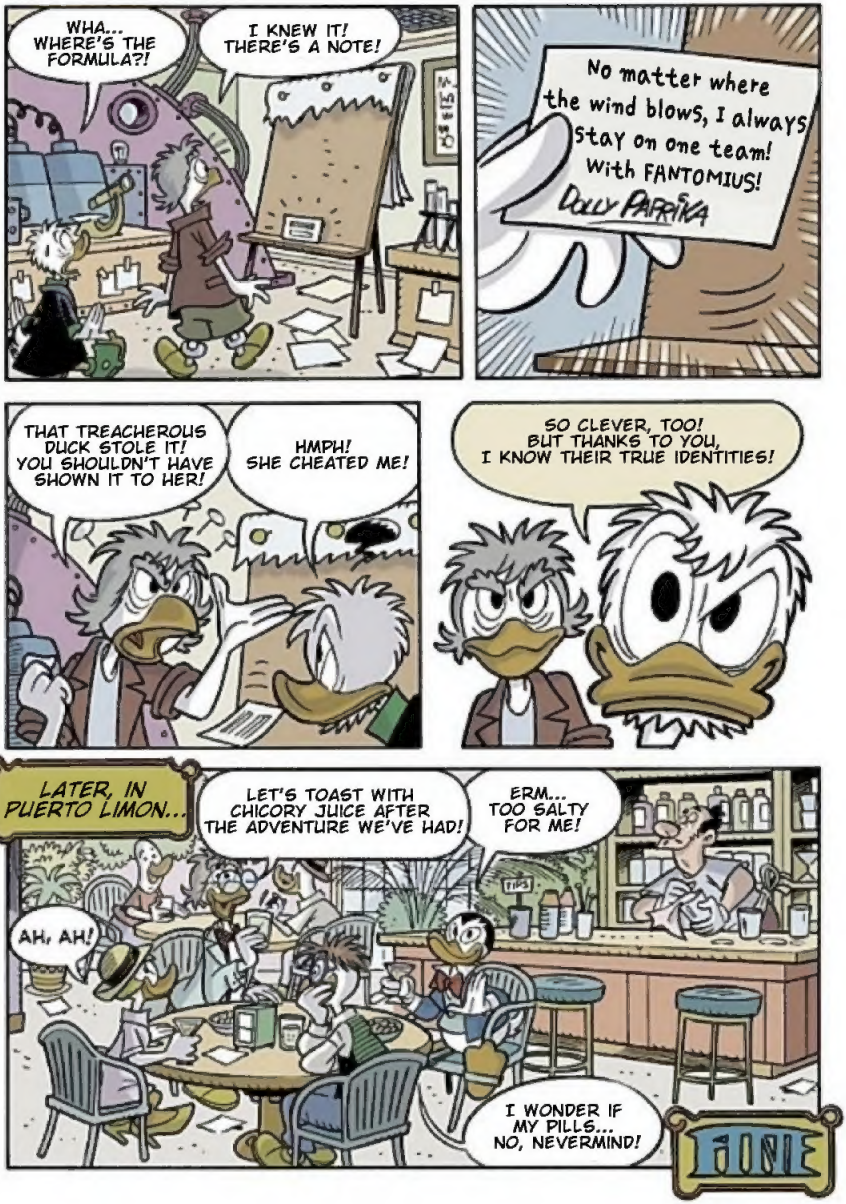

AND NOW WE'RE TRAPPED!
DON'T YOU HAVE ANYTHING IN YOUR POCKETS WE COULD USE?
I HAVE A BOTTLE OF SALT WATER, AND SOME BALLOONS FOR TOMORROW'S CELEBRATION!
AND I HAVE A SPARE BATTERY FOR THE COMMUNICATOR...
MEANWHILE...
GLOMGOLD! SO YOU'RE THE ONE BEHIND ALL THIS!
IT'S A GREAT IDEA FOR ME TO MAKE EVEN MORE MONEY, MISS PAPRIKA!
WHAT, THESE SCRIBBLES?
THAT'S THE FORMULA OF THE DESALINATION PILLS, WHICH I'LL BE SELLING AT A HIGH PRICE!
I'LL BECOME RICHER THAN SCROOGE MCDUCK, THANKS TO HIS FRIEND AND PARTNER!
I HAVE TO ADMIT, THAT'S A BRILLIANT PLAN!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A PART OF IT?
YOU KNOW I'M ALREADY A TEAM WITH FANTOMIUS!
HE HAS YOU IN THE BENCHES! YOU CAN KEEP HIM COMPANY, BUT A GOOD PLAYER DOESN'T REFUSE A BETTER OFFER!
AND YOU'RE A CUTE DUCK, ABLE TO SEIZE OPPORTUNITIES AND SEE WHERE THE WIND IS BLOWING!
MUMBLE... YOU MAKE A CONVINCING ARGUMENT!
ALRIGHT, I'M IN!
TAKING FANTOMIUS' PARTNER IS JUST THE ICING ON THE CAKE!
AT DAWN...
LET THE FIELD TEST BEGIN!
RIGHT!

SPLASH!
NOW TO TASTE IT...
GLU-GLU
EXCELLENT FRESH WATER! EHEHE!
VICTORY!
SBUF-SBUF
?
SBUF-SBUF
FUOOOSH
HELP! RUN AWAY!
!
GULP! WHO...
TUMP


THE ANNOYING HEADACHE! HEHEH!
FANTOMIUS! HOW DID YOU ESCAPE?!
YOU REALLY HAVE TO ASK? I WAS LOCKED UP WITH TWO BRILLIANT INVENTORS!
THANKS TO THE BATTERY, THEY MADE HYDROGEN...
...WHICH THEY THEN USED TO BLOW UP THE LOCK!
AS FOR THE "DRAGON'S" SECURITY GUARDS, I TOOK CARE OF THAT!
AND NOW IT'S MY TURN!
?
BOING

YOUR "DRAGON", MILADY!
THANK YOU, MILORD!
BOING
WHERE TO NOW?
WE HAVE A BOAT HIDDEN IN A CLEARING UP AHEAD!
SBUF-SBUF
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?! AFTER THEM!
TUM-TUM
TUM
NO! LET THEM GO! WE DON'T NEED THOSE PILLS ANYMORE.
WHAT? WHY?
YOU FORGET, MY FRIEND, WE STILL HAVE RATCHET'S FORMULA! HAHA!
I WOULDN'T BE SO SURE! TO THE LAB, QUICKLY!


WHA... WHERE'S THE FORMULA?!
I KNEW IT! THERE'S A NOTE!
No matter where the wind blows, I always stay on one team! With FANTOMIUS!
Dolly Paprika
THAT TREACHEROUS DUCK STOLE IT! YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE SHOWN IT TO HER!
HMPH! SHE CHEATED ME!
SO CLEVER, TOO! BUT THANKS TO YOU, I KNOW THEIR TRUE IDENTITIES!
LATER, IN PUERTO LIMON...
LET'S TOAST WITH CHICORY JUICE AFTER THE ADVENTURE WE'VE HAD!
ERM... TOO SALTY FOR ME!
AH, AH!
I WONDER IF MY PILLS... NO, NEVERMIND!
FINE